REMARKS

This application has been further reviewed in light of the Office Action dated January 11, 2006. Claims 1 to 7, 9, 10 and 12 to 19 remain pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 7, 9, 10, 12 and 16 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 7, 9, 10 and 12 to 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,307,640 (Motegi) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,348,972 (Taniguchi) and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,711,677 (Wiegley). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

The present invention relates to printing print data with authentication. According to the invention, a first information processor transfers job data, which includes print data and attribute information which is used to start printing of the print data to an output device (e.g., a printer), where the job data is stored. The first information processor notifies a second information processor of the attribute information and provides identification information that identifies the output device that the print job data was sent to. The second information processor then sends the received attribute information to the output device identified in the identification information in response to a user's instruction, but without the user entering the attribute information and the identification information. The output device then compares the attribute information received from the second information processor to the stored attribute information, and if they match, the stored print data is printed out.

Referring specifically to the claims, amended independent Claim 1 is a job processing system comprising first and second information processors, and an output device, which communicate with each other via a network, wherein the first information

- 12 -

processor comprises a job issuing unit that transfers to the output device job data, including print data and attribute information which is used to start outputting the print data, and a notifying unit that notifies the second information processor of the attribute information for the job data transferred to the output device by the job issuing unit of the first information processor and identification information for identifying the output device to which the attribute information is to be sent, wherein the second information processor comprises a sending unit that sends the attribute information notified to the second information processor by the notifying unit of the first information processor to the output device identified by the notified identification information in response to a user's instruction without the user entering the attribute information and identification information, and wherein the output device comprises a storage unit that stores the job data which is transferred to the output device by the job issuing unit, and a control unit adapted to output print data stored in the storage unit if the attribute information sent to the output device by the sending unit of the second information processor corresponds to the attribute information stored in the storage unit.

Amended independent Claim 7 is a method claim, amended independent Claim 9 is a system claim, and amended independent Claim 10 is a control method for a system claim, each of which substantially correspond to Claim 1.

Amended independent Claim 12 is directed more specifically to the printer and thus is a printing apparatus connected to a network, comprising a first receiving unit that receives, from a first client terminal on the network, print data and authentication information for executing printing of the print data, a storage unit that stores the received print data and authentication information, a second receiving unit that receives, from a second client terminal on the network, authentication information which the first client

- 13 -

terminal has sent to the second client terminal together with identification information for identifying the printing apparatus, the second client terminal sending the authentication information to the printing apparatus identified by the identification information in response to a user's instruction without the user entering the authentication information and the identification information, and a printing unit that prints, when the authentication information received by the second receiving unit from the second client terminal corresponds to the authentication information received by the first receiving unit, the print data stored in the storage unit which corresponds to the authentication information.

Amended independent Claim 16 is a control method for a printing apparatus substantially corresponding to Claim 12.

The applied art, alone or in any permissible combination, is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of Claims 1, 7, 9, 10, 12 and 16, and in particular, is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of an output device receiving, from a second information processor, attribute/authentication information which was sent to the second information processor by a first information processor in response to a user's instruction without the user entering the attribute/authentication information and identification information of the output device, and if the attribute/authentication information received from the second information processor matches attribute/authentication information received by the output device from the first information processor, the output device outputting print data corresponding to the attribute/authentication information.

Motegi is seen to disclose submitting an image file to a host computer for printing, where the image file is stored in the host computer. The host computer provides a unique job number to the user's terminal, where the unique job number is displayed. The

- 14 -

user can then go to the printer and enter the unique job number, whereby the image file is downloaded from the host computer to the printer and printed. Thus, Motegi is simply different in its operation than the present invention and does not teach the features of the present invention. Specifically, assuming that the user terminal of Motegi is the first information processor, it sends the print file to the host computer (second information processor) rather than to the printer and it does not sent attribute information to the host computer. Rather, the host computer sends ID information to the user terminal when it receives the print file. The host computer then sends the print file to the printer after the user enters the ID at the printer and the printer transmits the ID to the host computer. This operation is clearly different from the present invention.

Taniguchi is along the lines of Motegi in that a user, at a printer, selects one of a plurality of computers in which print job data is stored, where the print job data is then transmitted to the printer. However, Taniguchi is not seen to add anything that, when combined with Motegi, would have resulted in the foregoing features of the present invention.
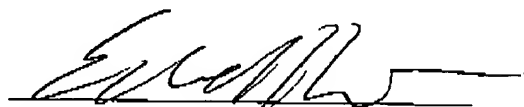
Wiegley is also not seen to add anything that, when combined with Motegi and/or Taniguchi, would have resulted in the present invention. In this regard, Wiegley is merely seen to disclose a secure printing system in which a printer and a printer client exchange a session identifier that is used for encrypting print data. However, any permissible combination of Motegi, Taniguchi and/or Wiegley, would not have resulted in the foregoing features of the present invention.

In view of the foregoing, independent Claims 1, 7, 9, 10, 12 and 16, as well as the claims dependent therefrom, are believed to be allowable.

No other matters having been raised, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

Attorney for Applicant
Edward A. Kmett
Registration No.: 42,746

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-2200
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

CA_MAIN 110510v1

- 16 -